



## COOPER DRUM SUPERFUND SITE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN

# COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT PLAN ORGANIZATION

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## THE COMMUNITY

This section provides a brief community profile and identifies issues and concerns raised during community interviews.

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## THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

This section presents the United States Environmental Protection Agency's (USEPA) action plan for addressing issues and concerns identified by community members during the interview process. The Community Involvement Plan (CIP) is based on tools and techniques that USEPA has developed over the years at hundreds of Superfund Sites throughout the nation.

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## APPENDICES

The appendices provide a synopsis of the site's history, information about the USEPA Superfund program, and a glossary of terms. Also included is the questionnaire that was used to interview community members for the creation of this plan.

# INTRODUCTION

Under the Federal Superfund Program, the United States Environmental Protection Agency (USEPA) is supervising the design, construction, and operation of cleanup systems at the Cooper Drum Site. This Community Involvement Plan (CIP) outlines specific outreach activities that will be used to address community concerns and meet the following goals:

- Encourage community interest and give the public the opportunity to provide meaningful input into the site cleanup decision;
- Provide the community of South Gate with accurate, timely, and understandable information about what we learn in our investigations in a manner consistent with their expressed communication preferences;
- Respect and consider the community's input and feedback on USEPA's cleanup process as it is being carried out.

To develop this CIP, from 2014–2016 USEPA conducted a series of community interviews with residents, city and elected officials, business owners, and other stakeholders in the South Gate area. Through these interviews, USEPA gathered community concerns and preferences regarding community involvement and communication, which have been incorporated into this CIP.



 *Location of Cooper Drum Site*

The CIP is a “living document,” meaning that it can be updated and revised as needed during the course of the Site cleanup to reflect changes within the community.



# THE COMMUNITY

## COMMUNITY PROFILE

The City of South Gate, also known as the “Azalea City,” is an urban community located in southeast Los Angeles County, just eight miles southeast of Downtown Los Angeles. Incorporated in 1923, the city straddles the 710 Freeway and the Los Angeles River and covers an area of 7.4 square miles. The city has a current population of 96,057.

The City had its modern-day beginnings as the area of land at the south gate of the Rancho San Antonio, a vast tract of land granted to the

Lugo family by the King of Spain as part of the Lugo Spanish Land Grant of 1810. Though the area was originally used for cattle ranching, by the 1870s and 1880s the vast Rancho San Antonio had been broken up into smaller tracts for agricultural use. Between 1910 and 1940 most of the area’s agricultural lands were replaced by homes and factories, and industry became a strong driver of the city’s economy.

Today, South Gate consists of residential, commercial, and industrial development. The city is home to nearly 171-acres of recreational

areas, most prominently South Gate Park, and several commercial districts, such as the Tweedy Mile Business District, El Paseo, The Crossroads and the Azalea Shopping Center. South Gate also houses several schools and a community college. The city’s population largely identifies as Latino, and Spanish is the language of choice in many households.

Source:

<http://www.cityofsouthgate.org/259/History-of-South-Gate>

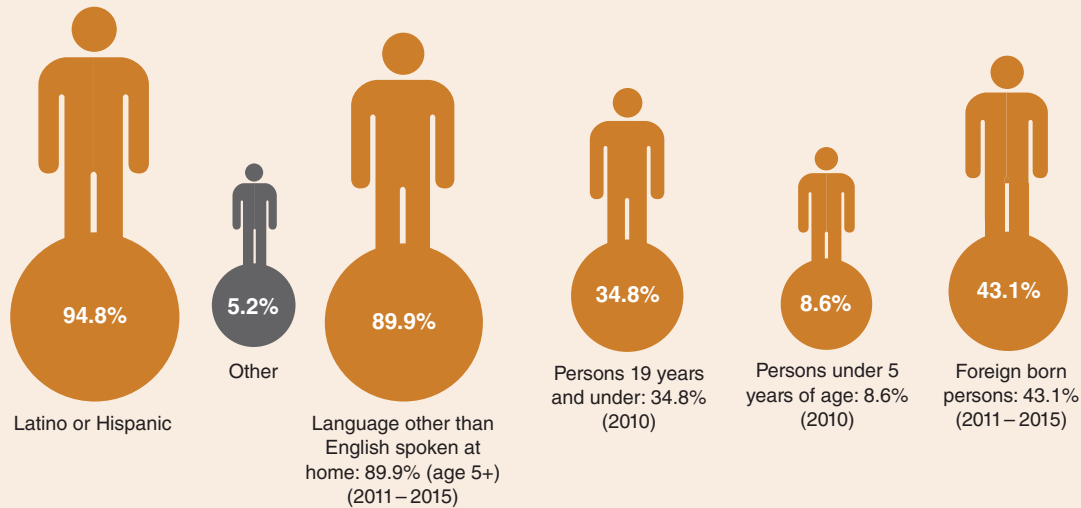


## COMMUNITY ISSUES AND CONCERNS

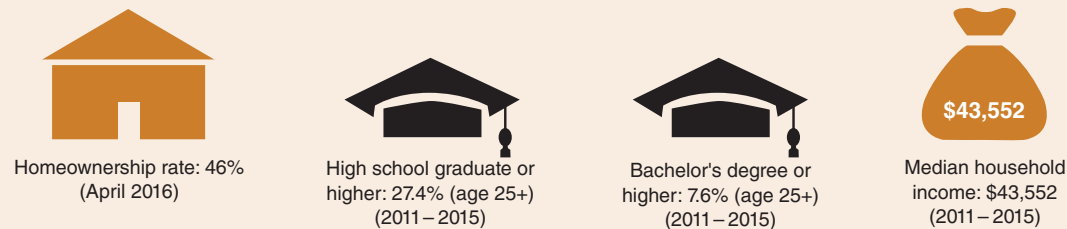
To better understand the community of South Gate and its concerns, USEPA interviewed residents, business owners, elected officials, and other stakeholders in the South Gate area. For a full list of the interview questions, please refer to the appendix section Community Questionnaire. Interviewees were asked a variety of questions about their personal history, their understanding of the Site, and their preferred methods of communication regarding the Site. These interviews provided USEPA with useful, valuable information that has been incorporated into this Plan.

 *South Gate Senior Center, located within the South Gate Park*

# CITY OF SOUTH GATE DEMOGRAPHICS



Total Population: 96,057 people



## Source of all additional demographic data:

South Gate City website: <http://www.cityofsouthgate.org/documentcenter/view/2427>

United States Census Bureau site: [https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community\\_facts.xhtml](https://factfinder.census.gov/faces/nav/jsf/pages/community_facts.xhtml)

Though responses to the interview questions were diverse, USEPA found that community concerns fell into six categories:

## 1. Drinking Water Quality

During their interviews, many community members expressed concerns about drinking water quality and particularly whether contaminants from the Site could migrate into and contaminate their drinking water sources. Drinking water quality was the most commonly cited concern related to the Superfund site and was expressed by a wide variety of stakeholders, from elected officials to residents.

Currently, all drinking water in South Gate is safe to drink and meets state and federal drinking water standards. The wells that provide the City's drinking water draw from groundwater that is hundreds of feet below the ground surface and are in a much deeper aquifer than the contamination from the Superfund site. Sampling completed to date as part of USEPA's studies of the Site has shown that contamination has not traveled down to the drinking water wells. However, because there are many groundwater aquifers in the area, and some are connected, there is potential that drinking water wells could become contaminated by the Site in the future. USEPA therefore wants to control the migration of contaminants in groundwater.

Additional information about water quality in South Gate can be obtained from the City's water providers. The South Gate Water Service can be reached at (323) 563 – 9586, and the Golden State Water Company, which services the Hollydale Area, can be contacted at (800) 999 – 4033.

## 2. Health Impacts

Many community members had general concerns about potential health impacts from the site. Community members cited concerns about health impacts caused by both past and future exposure to contaminants from the site and were particularly concerned about health impacts for school-aged children.

USEPA prioritizes the health of community members in our work at the site. Though we cannot predict health impacts from past exposure, our goal is to prevent future exposure. As part of our Superfund cleanup process, we complete a thorough investigation to better understand the nature and location of the contamination at each site we address. We then use these findings to help us select — with opportunities for community input — the best cleanup method to use at the site so that we can protect human health. More information about our Superfund cleanup process can be found in the appendix section.

The California Department of Public Health (CDPH) and the Los Angeles Department of Public Health (LADPH) are both aware of USEPA's work on the Superfund site in South Gate and are available to speak with community members about potential health concerns. The LADPH Toxics Epidemiology Program can be reached at (213) 738-3232 or by visiting their website at <http://publichealth.lacounty.gov>. At CDPH, Danny Kwon ((510) 620-3679 or [danny.kwon@cdph.ca.gov](mailto:danny.kwon@cdph.ca.gov)) is available to respond to community questions or concerns.

## 3. Effects on Economic Development

Several community members expressed concerns that the stigma associated with the Superfund site might negatively impact economic development in South Gate. In particular, community members expressed concern that businesses might be dissuaded from developing in South Gate because of the Superfund site and that the Site might lower property values in the city.

Property values depend on a large numbers of market factors, including buyer perception. USEPA does not control property values in any way and does not have authority or ability to compensate for property value. However, it is usually true that effects on property values related to soil contamination are lessened or eliminated once a cleanup has been completed. Other unrelated real estate markets trends do continue to have their usual effect, however, both now and after the cleanup.

In the past, USEPA has met with business leaders in the community, and we are dedicated to expanding this outreach in the future to ensure that we are aware of and addressing the concerns of the South Gate business community to the best of our ability.

## 4. Site Redevelopment

During USEPA's interviews, several community members stressed the importance to them of future redevelopment of the Site. In particular, community members would like the site to be put to productive reuse after the completion of their cleanup instead of remaining as empty lots.

USEPA supports redevelopment of Superfund sites and works with property owners, potential purchasers, potential lessees, and communities to redevelop sites to the best of their potential. However, USEPA's utmost goal in its Superfund cleanups is to protect human health and the environment, and therefore any reuse of a site must protect the future occupants of the site and the surrounding community from exposure to contaminants.

## 5. Cleanup Duration

Community members also expressed concern about the duration of the Superfund cleanup process and wanted additional information about the likely length of a Superfund cleanup.

Superfund cleanups are highly variable. Therefore, it is difficult to give a time estimate for cleanup. USEPA began our investigation of contamination



 Extraction well

at the Cooper Drum site in 2001, and cleanup actions of the site began in 2011 and continue today. Throughout our investigation and cleanup process, USEPA remains committed to keeping the community informed of the status and timing of the cleanup.

## **6. Lack of Community Familiarity with the Superfund Program**

Though some community members interviewed by USEPA had some knowledge or experience with the South Gate Superfund site, many residents interviewed knew little about the site. In addition, during a community survey conducted by South Gate's Community Environmental Health Action Team (CEHAT) in May 2015, only five percent of residents interviewed had any knowledge of the Superfund program and / or were aware that there are three Superfund sites located in their community. Though this survey was not conducted directly by USEPA, it does add to USEPA's findings that there is currently little familiarity in South Gate with the Superfund program.

USEPA is committed to ensuring that the South Gate community is aware and informed of our work on the Superfund sites within their city. In order to better increase awareness of our work in South Gate, USEPA will use the insight gained through our collaboration with South Gate community groups and the results of the interviews conducted for this CIP to adjust our communications and outreach strategies to best reach all populations within the community.

## **Additional Environmental Health Concerns**

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During interviews and informal conversations with USEPA representatives and in surveys completed by South Gate's CHEAT, community members expressed many environmental and health concerns that extend beyond the scope of USEPA's Superfund program. In particular, many community members expressed concerns about South Gate's outdoor air quality due to its proximity to major freeways and traffic arteries, illegal dumping in their neighborhoods, challenges with public safety in the City, and the proximity of homes and schools to other (non-Superfund) contaminated sites. These concerns, among many others, illustrate the nuanced and complex community understanding of environmental health in South Gate. They also indicate that community members care deeply about many issues that affect their, and their families', livelihoods. Though USEPA will not be addressing every identified community concern during the cleanup of the Superfund site, it is still very important that USEPA considers the complexities of the South Gate community's environmental health concerns when communicating with and engaging community members during the Superfund cleanup process.

## **Communication Preferences**

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During their interviews, community members expressed certain communication preferences, which USEPA has incorporated into this Plan. Though communication preferences varied somewhat, there were several recurring themes.

Although large, USEPA-led public meetings may sometimes be necessary, interviewees noted that these events are not the most effective way to communicate with the community. Instead, interviewees recommended that USEPA use already established community groups and communication networks, including schools, churches, service clubs, and community events (such as South Gate's Family Day in the Park), to communicate our messages. Community members preferred individual, face-to-face, and small group interactions with USEPA. Community members also stressed the importance and prevalence of information distribution in the community by "word of mouth."

Several community members mentioned that written communication in the form of fact sheets or email updates would be useful. They noted that this written communication would be particularly effective if distributed by an already established communication network (a church, school, etc.) or through community leaders.

Interviewees stressed the importance of using short, concise language in written communication. They recommended that USEPA avoid the use of "jargon" or overly technical terminology in all communications, both written and verbal.

Finally, every interviewee emphasized that all USEPA's communications with the community, both written and verbal, should be offered in both Spanish and English so as to be inclusive of all community members. If other language needs are identified, USEPA is committed to offering translation into these languages, as well.



# THE COMMUNITY INVOLVEMENT ACTION PLAN

## COMMUNICATIONS TOOLS

Community members expressed a preference for a cross-media approach to communication. This means that USEPA will use various methods to provide the community with information, including printed material and in-person interactions. The most common tools that USEPA will implement are:

### Fact Sheets

USEPA will regularly provide information to the community and give updates on the Site cleanup through fact sheets. These fact sheets will announce upcoming sampling or community meetings, public comment periods, and other pertinent information. USEPA will design clear and easy to read fact sheets with visual representations and photos. When appropriate, USEPA will mail fact sheets to its mailing list, or, in certain cases of specific, targeted information, will distribute the fact sheets door-to-door. Community members can contact USEPA's Community Involvement Coordinator at any time to be added to the mailing list. In addition, USEPA will post fact sheets to its website and will provide extra copies of its fact sheets to the City of South Gate, South Gate's CEHAT, and the Leland R. Weaver Library.

### Email List:

USEPA will provide periodic written updates to its email list about current work at the Superfund

site, upcoming sampling and community meetings, and other pertinent information. All emails will be written in plain, concise language and will be translated into both English and Spanish. Community members can contact USEPA's Community Involvement Coordinator to be added to the USEPA's South Gate email list.

### Community and Public Events

South Gate holds various events where USEPA may be able to host booths and conduct outreach. These events are an effective way to communicate more informally with community members and to reach community members

who may not be able to attend a USEPA-sponsored community meeting. The following events have been identified as effective venues for informal outreach:

<b>Azalea Festival</b>	March
<b>Health Fair</b>	April/May
<b>Earth Day Event</b>	April
<b>Tweedy Mile Fair</b>	June
<b>Family Day in the Park</b>	October

 *USEPA sponsored a workshop to explain the Superfund process*







In addition to attending the above public events, at the request of local community members USEPA will attend and present at community meetings for local groups and institutions.

### **Public Meetings**

Though community members have expressed that large public meetings are likely not the most effective way to communicate with residents, they may at times be necessary. Public meetings will be held in spaces that are already familiar and convenient to community members, such as the Girl's Club House in South Gate Park or at one of the South Gate schools. The community has stated a preference for evening meetings during the week.

At the request of community members, USEPA will also hold “coffee klatches” — smaller, more informal gatherings — in small venues or private residences to present information, receive input, and discuss the site with interested groups of individuals. Additionally, when requested USEPA will provide site updates and presentations at meetings of South Gate community groups or organizations, such as business associations, faith organizations, parent groups, schools, service groups, etc.

### **Public Comment Periods**

During a public comment period, USEPA accepts comments from the public on proposed actions and decisions. This enables community members to participate in the administrative decision making process. The community will be notified of public comment periods through fact sheets, outreach to local organizations, and notices in local publications or on city or community websites.

## Distribution

USEPA has been encouraged to utilize existing communication networks when reaching out to South Gate community members. USEPA will continue to build relationships with already established groups, such as churches, schools, service groups, and business associations, and to coordinate and collaborate as much as possible with these organizations to distribute important site-related information.

## Other Communication Preferences

During our interviews, USEPA was told by several interviewees that radio, newspapers, and television are effective outreach methods. USEPA will take this into consideration moving forward and will try to incorporate these methods into our communication strategy when possible and appropriate.

## Radio Stations

K-LOVE: 107.5 FM  
La Que Buena: 105.5 / 94.3 FM  
KLAX-La Raza: 97.9 FM  
Power 106: 105.9 FM  
Kiss FM: 102.7 FM

## Television Stations

Univisión Cañal 34:  
[www.univision.com/los-angeles/kmex](http://www.univision.com/los-angeles/kmex)  
Fox LA:  
[www.foxla.com](http://www.foxla.com)

## Newspapers

LA Wave  
Long Beach Press-Telegram  
La Opinión  
LA Times

## COLLABORATION WITH ORGANIZATIONS AND AGENCIES

### City of South Gate

USEPA collaborates with the City of South Gate on various aspects of the Superfund process. To date, the City has generously helped USEPA to distribute information about the South Gate Superfund site by making fact sheets and other information available in City Hall and on its website. In addition, the City has connected USEPA with relevant entities and organizations within South Gate and has supported USEPA in various outreach efforts. USEPA remains committed to continuing this collaboration and to regularly briefing the City of South Gate and the City Council about ongoing investigations and outreach at the Site.

### South Gate Community Environmental Health Action Team (CEHAT)

The CEHAT is a South Gate community group formed under the Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH). PACE EH is a protocol designed by the National Association of County and City Health Officials (NACCHO) that outlines thirteen steps that communities and public health officials can complete to address environmental health concerns within their community. With the facilitation and support of the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), in 2015 and 2016 the CEHAT followed the guidelines laid out in the PACE EH process to identify,



*CEHAT members seeking to better understand the environmental concerns residents have that have now helped guide the groups action plans*

prioritize, and develop action plans to address environmental health concerns in South Gate.

The CEHAT continues to address these concerns through educational events and collaboration on various projects with other organizations in the community. The CEHAT is composed of various stakeholders, including South Gate residents, members of community and business associations, educators, City of South Gate employees, and representatives from county, state, and federal agencies. The mission of the



CEHAT is to “contribute to make a South Gate that is beautiful, safe, educated, represented, healthy, sustainable, prosperous, clean, and united,” and to date, the CEHAT has been successful in raising community interest and awareness of environmental health issues.

USEPA has served as a stakeholder in the South Gate CEHAT since its inception and has collaborated with the group in various community education and outreach events. With its close ties to the community, the CEHAT has been a valuable resource for USEPA in connecting USEPA to residents in the community and in distributing information relevant to the Superfund site in South Gate. USEPA is committed to continuing to collaborate with the CEHAT in the future to address environmental health concerns in the community.

Additional information about the South Gate CEHAT can be found on its Facebook page at [www.facebook.com/CEHATSG](https://www.facebook.com/CEHATSG).

In addition to its partnerships with the City of South Gate and the CEHAT, USEPA also collaborates with various other stakeholders in its outreach and technical work, including, among others, the California Department of Public Health (CDPH), Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD), California Department of Toxic Substance Control (DTSC), the Water Replenishment District, and various South Gate community groups.

 *Local information repository,  
South Gate Library*

## LANGUAGE SUPPORT

In recognizing the language needs and preferences of South Gate residents, USEPA is committed to offering all communications with the community in both English and Spanish to be inclusive of all community members. Real-time interpretation will be made available at public meetings, and all written communication will be translated into both English and Spanish. If other language needs become apparent, USEPA will adjust its outreach to include additional translation.

## INFORMATION REPOSITORY

At Superfund sites, USEPA typically maintains a set of documents and information locally, where it can be easily accessed by the public. This is called the “Information Repository.” It may contain paper or electronic copies of technical or planning documents, fact sheets, informative

videos, results of previous meetings, and other similar types of information.

The South Gate information repository is located at:

### **Leland R. Weaver Library**

4035 Tweedy Blvd.

South Gate, CA 90280

<http://www.colapublib.org/libs/weaver/>  
(323) 567 – 8853

In addition, site information can be found at:

### **USEPA Records Center**

75 Hawthorne Street, Suite 3110

San Francisco, CA 94105

(415) 947 – 8717





# APPENDICES

## OVERVIEW OF THE SUPERFUND CLEANUP PROGRAM

### What is Superfund

Superfund is the environmental program established in 1980 to address hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment. The Superfund cleanup process involves identifying a hazardous waste site, placing it on the National Priorities (or Superfund) List, assessing the levels and location of contamination at the site, and designing and implementing an appropriate cleanup plan. Throughout the Superfund process, USEPA works closely with communities, responsible parties, scientists, researchers, and contractors, as well as state, local, and federal authorities.

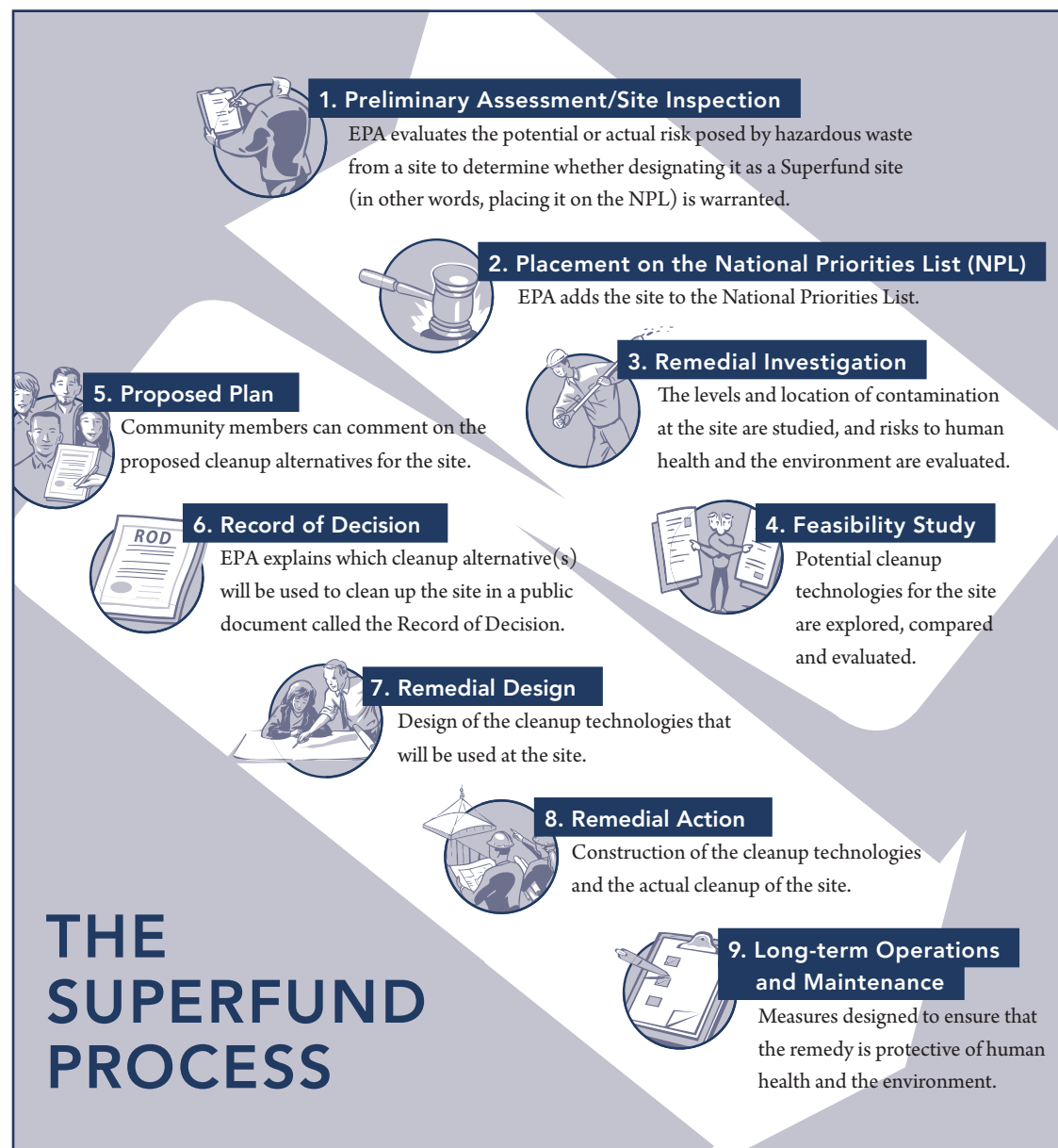
The goals of the Superfund program include:

- Protect human health and the environment by cleaning up polluted sites;
- Involve communities in the Superfund process; and
- Make responsible parties pay for work performed at Superfund sites.

For more information on the Superfund program, visit: [www.epa.gov/superfund](http://www.epa.gov/superfund).

### Superfund Cleanup Process and Opportunities for Public Participation

There are several steps involved in cleaning up a polluted site. Once a polluted or potentially



polluted site has been reported to USEPA by individual citizens, state agencies, or others, USEPA follows a step-by-step process to determine the best way to clean up the site and protect human health and the environment. Opportunities for community involvement occur throughout the process.

## SOUTH GATE SITE HISTORY / TIMELINE

### Cooper Drum Co. Superfund Site

Beginning in 1941, the Cooper Drum site was used by several companies to recondition and recycle steel drums that once contained a variety of industrial chemicals. From 1972 to 1992, the Cooper Drum Company operated at the site flushing and stripping drums for painting and resale. The waste from these activities was collected in open concrete trenches, which resulted in the release of the waste material into the soil and groundwater beneath the site. The drum cleaning activities at the site eventually resulted in extensive soil and groundwater contamination.

Starting in 1984, the Cooper Drum Company received several citations from the Los Angeles Department of Health Services for incidents at the site involving the release of hazardous substances. Because of these incidents, the county and state conducted soil and groundwater studies and found volatile organic compounds (VOCs) — chemicals that can easily become vapors or gases — at the site, along with metals and chemicals associated with petroleum.

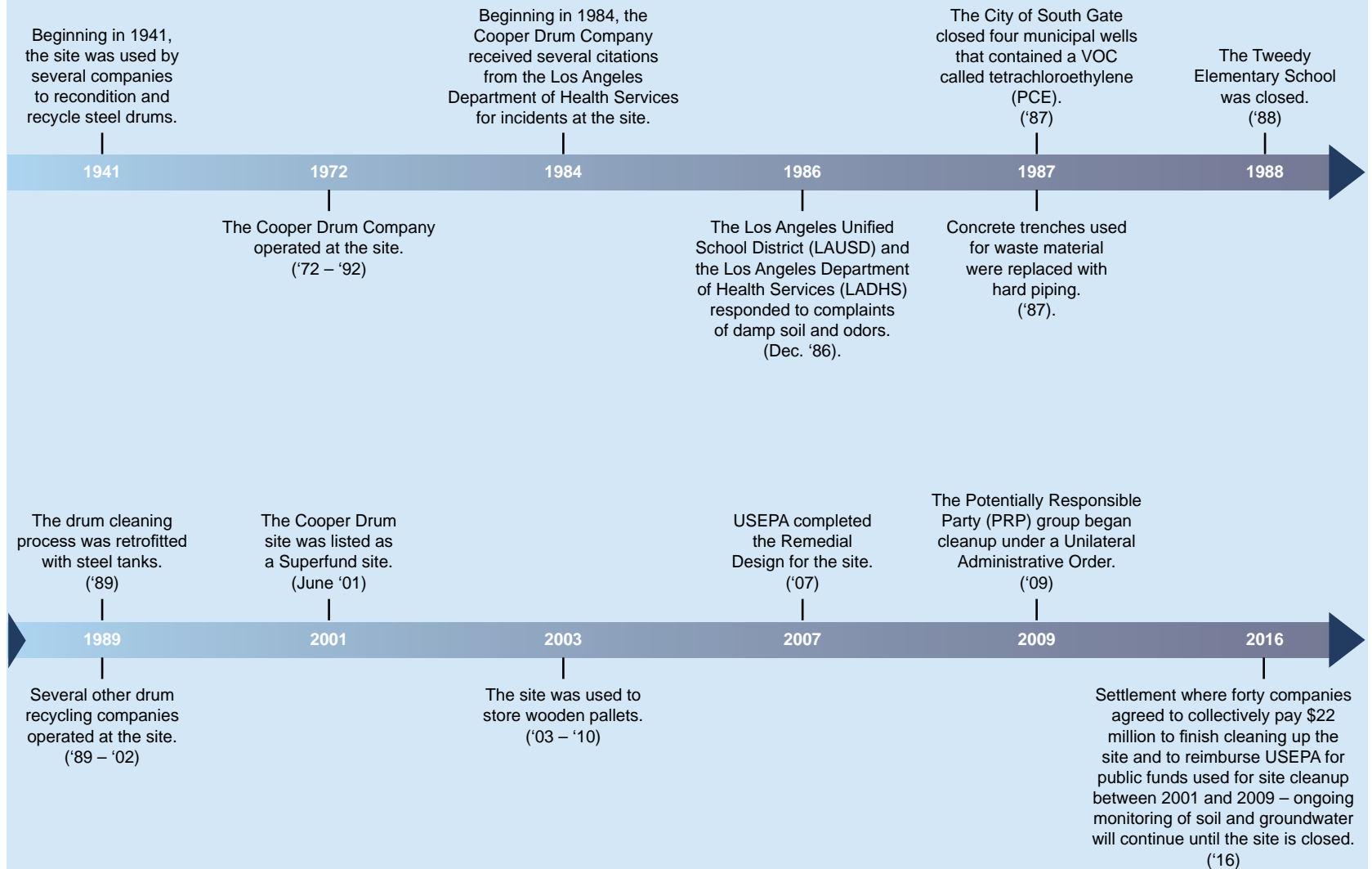
In December 1986, the Los Angeles Unified School District (LAUSD) and the Los Angeles Department of Health Services (LADHS) responded to complaints of damp soil and odors in an area of the former Tweedy School adjacent to the Cooper Drum property. Soils collected from this area had elevated levels of chemicals called petroleum hydrocarbons. LADHS investigated the health impacts of air emissions

from Cooper Drum and other contaminated sites in the area on children and staff at the former Tweedy School. LADHS concluded from these investigations that there were no major health effects from air emissions and that reported symptoms were short-term and reversible in nature. However, in 1988 the Tweedy Elementary School was closed due to concerns that teachers and children attending the school

 Extraction well



## Cooper Drum Co. Superfund Site Timeline





could be exposed to contamination from the Cooper Drum site or from other contaminated sites in the area.

In 1987, the City of South Gate closed four municipal wells that contained a VOC called tetrachloroethylene (PCE). The wells were located 1,500 feet southeast of the Cooper Drum Site. At the time of the well closures, the city listed Cooper Drum as a possible source to this contamination. More recent studies have shown that the contamination from Cooper Drum is not contributing to contamination affecting the municipal wells. Drinking water wells in South Gate draw groundwater from hundreds of feet below the ground surface, while sampling has indicated that contamination from the Cooper Drum site has only traveled down to approximately 125 feet below the ground surface.

In 1987, the concrete trenches used for waste material at the site were replaced with hard piping, and in 1989, the drum cleaning process was retrofitted with steel tanks to keep the waste material from being released into the soil and groundwater at the site. Between 1989 and 2002, several other drum recycling companies operated at the site. From 2003 to 2010, the site was used to store wooden pallets. Following further environmental investigations, the Cooper Drum site was listed as a Superfund site in June of 2001. USEPA completed the Remedial Design for the site in 2007, and a Potentially Responsible Party (PRP) group began the cleanup at the site under a Unilateral Administrative Order in 2009. In a 2016 settlement, forty companies agreed to collectively pay \$22 million to finish cleaning up the site and to reimburse USEPA for public funds used for site cleanup between 2001 and 2009.

The PRP group has installed three systems to clean up the contamination at the site. Soil at the site is remediated using a soil vapor extraction (SVE) system that removes VOCs from the soil. This technology includes a large electric-powered fan that creates suction at a series of wells. This suction causes VOCs to off-gas from the soil so they are drawn into the well and then transported by piping to the treatment system, where they are removed from the air using carbon filters. The filtered air is then released from the treatment system. The air discharged from the SVE system is routinely tested to ensure that it meets the State requirements. The results of this testing are provided to USEPA.

In some areas of the site, the soil is saturated with groundwater. This is called perched groundwater

because it is found at shallower depths than the main aquifer. The contamination in perched groundwater at the site is treated using a dual phase extraction (DPE) system, which operates in much the same way as the SVE system at the site. The overall goal of DPE is to remove any perched groundwater from the soil so the SVE system can then treat the contamination in deeper soil. Once treated, the perched groundwater meets wastewater requirements for the LA County Sanitation District and can be sent to the sanitary sewer.

A groundwater extraction system is used to remediate contaminated groundwater at the site by removing groundwater containing VOCs. In the groundwater extraction system, a series of wells containing electrical pumps are used to

 *Extraction well being installed at a 45 degree angle*



collect contaminated groundwater. Because the VOC levels in the pumped groundwater are very low, the groundwater can then be discharged directly to the sanitary sewer for treatment at the plant.

Monitoring of soil and groundwater is ongoing during the operation of the extraction systems and will continue until the site is closed.

## GLOSSARY

*The following terms are commonly used in relation to the Superfund site in South Gate.*

**Aquifer:** Underground formations, containing water. Aquifers are sources of groundwater for drinking water wells.

**CERCLA:** Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act (commonly known as Superfund). CERCLA (1) establishes prohibitions and requirements at closed and abandoned hazardous waste sites; and (2) provides for liability of persons responsible for releases of hazardous waste at these sites.

**Community Involvement Plan (CIP):** A document that identifies techniques used by USEPA to communicate effectively with the public during the Superfund cleanup process at a specific site. This plan is based on community and stakeholder interviews.

**Consent Decree (CD):** A legal document, approved by a judge, that formalizes an agreement reached between USEPA and Potentially

Responsible Parties (PRP) through which PRPs will conduct all or part of a cleanup action at a Superfund site, cease or correct actions or processes that are polluting the environment, or otherwise comply with USEPA initiated regulatory enforcement action.

**Contamination:** Contamination is the introduction into water, air and/or soil of microorganisms, chemicals, toxic substances, wastes or waste water in a concentration that makes the medium (water, air and/or soil) unfit for its next intended use.

**Groundwater:** The supply of freshwater found beneath the Earth's surface. Groundwater continues to be an important part of this area's drinking water supply; however, shallow groundwater directly beneath the Superfund site in South Gate is not part of this supply. All water served to the residents and businesses in South Gate meets state and federal drinking water standards.

**Information Repository:** A location containing current information, technical reports, and reference documents regarding a Superfund site. The information repository is in a public building that is convenient for local residents, such as a public school, city hall, or library.

**National Priorities List (NPL):** USEPA's list of the most serious uncontrolled or abandoned hazardous waste sites identified for long-term cleanup action under the Superfund program. The NPL is based primarily on the score a site receives from USEPA's Hazard Ranking System.

**Potentially Responsible Party (PRP):** An individual or company (e.g., an owner, operator, transporter, or generator of hazardous substances or hazardous waste) that is potentially responsible for the past contamination and future cleanup of a Superfund site.

**Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health (PACE EH):** A protocol that outlines a series of thirteen steps that communities and local public health officials can use to identify, prioritize, and develop action plans to address community environmental health concerns.

**Record of Decision (ROD):** The legal document identifying USEPA's selected remedy, as well as the factors that led to its selection.

**Remedial Action (RA):** Construction and cleanup activities of a site.

**Remedial Design (RD):** Design of the cleanup technologies that will be used at the site.

**Remedial Investigation and Feasibility Study (RI/FS):** The remedial investigation is an in-depth study to find out the nature and extent of contamination at a Superfund site. The feasibility study is a description and analysis of potential cleanup alternatives, based on the Nine Criteria. When these studies are combined, they are called an "RI/FS."

**Remedial Project Manager (RPM):** The USEPA official responsible for overseeing on-site remedial action.

**Remediation:** Cleanup methods used to remove or contain a toxic spill or hazardous materials.

**Remedy:** An action that stops or substantially reduces a release or threat of a release of hazardous substances.

**Soil Gas:** Air in the small spaces within soil.

**Source:** An area where a hazardous substance may have been deposited, stored or disposed of.

**Stakeholder:** Any organization, governmental entity, or individual that is or may be impacted by a Superfund cleanup.

**Superfund:** The environmental program established in 1980 to address hazardous waste sites that threaten public health and the environment.

**Unilateral Administrative Order (UAO):** Is used by EPA staff when issuing Remedial Design/ Remedial Action (RD/RA) UAO's to potentially responsible parties (PRPs) under section 106 of CERCLA. It is designed to be used in partnership with the UAO Statement of Work, as a technical attachment to the UAO which sets the procedures and requirements for implementing the RD and RA under the UAO.

**Vapor Intrusion:** A process by which underground contamination can travel through the soil as a vapor and enter buildings through cracks in the foundation or crawl spaces.

**Volatile Organic Compounds (VOCs):** Organic chemicals that can easily turn into vapors or gases under normal conditions.

## ACRONYMS & ABBREVIATIONS

The following acronyms and abbreviations are commonly used in relation to the Superfund site in South Gate.

<b>CEHAT</b>	Community Environmental Health Action Team
<b>CERCLA</b>	Comprehensive Environmental Response, Compensation, and Liability Act
<b>CIC</b>	Community Involvement Coordinator
<b>CIP</b>	Community Involvement Plan
<b>NPL</b>	National Priorities List
<b>PACE EH</b>	Protocol for Assessing Community Excellence in Environmental Health
<b>PRP</b>	Potentially Responsible Party
<b>ROD</b>	Record of Decision
<b>RPM</b>	Remedial Project Manager
<b>USEPA</b>	U.S. Environmental Protection Agency
<b>UAO</b>	Unilateral Administrative Order
<b>VI</b>	Vapor Intrusion
<b>VOC</b>	Volatile Organic Compound



 Vault for Extraction well



## COMMUNITY QUESTIONNAIRE

*This CIP is based on community interviews conducted in 2014 – 2016. Interviewees were asked the following questions:*

1. How long have you lived or worked in the area?  
Lived: \_\_\_\_\_ Worked: \_\_\_\_\_
2. Do you represent or belong to any community organizations, business organizations or environmental groups?
3. Are you familiar with the Cooper Drum Superfund Site? Yes \_\_\_\_ No \_\_\_\_  
How would you rate your familiarity on a scale of 1 – 5  
(5 being very familiar)?
4. What is your understanding of the contamination at the Cooper Drum Site (groundwater)?
5. How do you feel about your role, working / living in this community?  
Did you have prior knowledge about the Superfund Site in this community?
6. How did you first become aware of environmental issues at the Site?
7. When and where do you usually get this information?  
When: \_\_\_\_\_ Where: \_\_\_\_\_
8. Have you personally been involved with the investigation and cleanup activities at this site? If so, how?
9. What are your major concerns about the site? (Health, environment, property value, business impacts, etc.) Please rank them in order of importance.
10. Are you aware of other environmental issues in the area (not related to the Superfund Site), that USEPA should be aware of when working with the community?
11. How would you characterize the residential or business community's concerns regarding the investigation?
12. Who would you contact if you had a question about the investigation and cleanup activities?
13. Have these officials or agencies been responsive to your concern?
14. Have you had any contact with the USEPA, local, state or other officials about the investigation and cleanup at this Site? If yes, what was the nature of this contact? What kind of response did you receive?
15. Can you suggest ways the USEPA can improve its communication program with the community?
16. Have you ever received a flier / fact sheet in the mail or received a fact sheet or flyer by some method other than US mail? For Superfund site in your area.
17. Are you interested in receiving more information about cleanup activities in this site? What topics? How often? Can we add your name to our mailing list? Snail mail or email?
18. Can you suggest a convenient time and day for future community meetings / open house?
19. Are you aware of any language translation or interpretation needs in this community? If yes, which language(s)?
20. What media (newspaper, radio, T.V., internet) do you rely on most to get local information? Do you use internet?
21. Have you ever tried accessing USEPA's webpage for any site information?
22. Do you know anyone else that you think we should interview?





